

St. Leo The Great

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

130 Watford Street, Brooklin, ON L1M 1H2

905.655.3286

www.stleothegreat.ca e-mail: officeatstleothegreat@gmail.com

Pastor: Father Mounir El- Rassi

Parish Secretary: Sandy Yatabe 905-655-3286 ext. 1

Office Hours (Summer Schedule)

Monday, Saturday & Sunday: closed

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 am

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

First Saturday: 8:30 am

Benediction and Adoration

Friday: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am - with Children's Liturgy

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday: 9:15 am - 9:45 am

Saturday: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Ave Rosarium Cenacle Prayer Group

Every Wednesday at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Contact: francavasco1@gmail.com

Sacrament of Baptism

Go to our website Forms

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact your parish priest at least one year in advance. Please call the Parish Office.

Parish Registration

All families attending St. Leo's are requested to register with the Parish. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the church.

Altar Servers' Ministry

Altar Servers / children serve the mass they attend. Arrive 15 minutes before your mass if possible. Please register children for this ministry at the Welcome Centre.

Knights of Columbus

Contact: stleokoc@gmail.com

Saint Vincent de Paul

President: Maureen Kerr maureen.kerr100@gmail.com

905-655-3286 ext 3

Catholic Women's League (CWL)

President: Shannon Rogers smarogers@gmail.com

Catering Services

Franca Vasco 905-621-9658

Federation of North American Explorers (FNE)

Founder: Paul Ritchi Paul.ritchi@gmail.com 416-435-6593

To become a Catholic Please contact the parish office

Local Hospitals & Emergency Pastoral Visits

There is a full-time Catholic priest assigned to these three hospitals at various times of the week: Oshawa, Whitby and Port Perry. Simply ask hospital staff to inquire as to whether Hospital Chaplain is present in the Hospital or when he will be. If there is an emergency, please call St. Leo the Great Parish at 905-655-3286, ext 8

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, December 6th (1st Saturday of the Month)

9:00 a.m. + Harold Coker

Living intentions for Fr. Taras

4:30 p.m. + Edward Fox

Sunday, December 7th

9:00 a.m. Hallihan Family

11:00 a.m. + Vince Corvinelli

Tuesday, December 9th

8:30 a.m. + George E. Johnston

Wednesday, December 10th

7:00 p.m. Pro Populo

Thursday, December 11th

8:30 a.m. Living intentions of Anna Maria & Benedetto

Tuzi & Veronica & Christopher Duarte

Friday, December 12th

8:30 a.m. + Ben Sutton

Living intentions of Marta

Saturday, December 13th

4:30 p.m. + Edward Fox

Sunday, December 7th

9:00 a.m. + Larry Hallihan

11:00 a.m. + Michael Giardullo

Pray for our deceased parishioners:

For: Sanctuary Light Request

For: Vigil Light for Mary.

For: Visiting Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary.

For a visit by the parish priest.

Make your request at the office

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd Collection after Communion

**At all weekend Masses,
December 6th & 7th
*Building and Maintenance Fund***

Pizza Sunday by "Pizza Hut"

**A special Thank You to the
Pervaiz Family, proud owners
of Pizza Hut for their
generosity and to all those who
helped at our social gathering.
Our Pizza Lunch Social was a
big success.**

Cardinal Leo's Message for Advent

Message for Advent
30 November 2025

His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of
Toronto

*Please visit our website:
<https://stleotheatrebr.archtoronto.org>
for Cardinal Leo's Message for
World Youth Day*

Knights Breakfast Sunday

December 7, 2025

After the 9 am & 11 am Masses

Kitchen Cabinets & Counters

We are excited and looking forward
to our kitchen renovation.
Installation of the kitchen cabinets
and counters will begin on
December 8th.

Christmas Bake Sale December 13th & 14th

We are asking all parishioners who
enjoy baking to help with our
Christmas Bake Sale. Bring your
baked goods to the kitchen on
Friday, Dec 12 between 9am to
12pm or 1pm to 5pm. Sale of
baked goods will take place after
the weekend Masses on Dec 13 &

14. Proceeds from the bake sale
will go towards the Building Fund

ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

December 13 at 7PM

Toronto's Christmas Tradition.
Jubilee Celebration: 60 Years at
Massey Hall
Tickets \$ 40 - \$ 125.
www.masseyhall.com

CWL Christmas Party

The Catholic Women's League
(CWL) of St. Leo wishes to invite
all women of the parish to attend
their Christmas Party.

Date: Wednesday Dec 17th, 2025

Time: 6pm -10pm

Place: Kedron Dells Golf Club
2400 Ritson Road
North, Oshawa

The evening will include a
Traditional Turkey Dinner with all
the trimmings and a carol sing-
along in a private room with festive
decorations.

Cost: 65\$ per person and includes all
taxes and gratuities. Bar drinks
will be available for purchase.

For additional details and to register
please contact Margaret McIntyre
at mcintyremanda@gmail.com

St. Leo The Great CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday December 20

Featuring the Clarington Concert
Band

Starts at 7:00 PM.

Admission: Freewill Offering

CWL Christmas Basket

CWL Christmas Basket worth
over \$600 featuring Maple Leaf
Max Domi Jersey on sale in the
vestibule. \$ 2 each or 3 for \$ 5.
Draw at noon on December 21st.

Advent Confession at St. Leo's

Friday, December 19th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 20th

9:00 am -10: 30 am

2026 Offertory Envelopes

Kindly pickup your 2026 Offertory
Envelopes that are on a table in the
vestibule. If you need any help
finding your box of envelopes,
please ask an Usher. For PAG
Parishioners requiring special
envelopes, please put your name
down on the sheet.

Advent Reflection with Sacred Art

All are invited to attend an online
Advent reflection using works of
sacred art such as Philippe de
Champaigne's The

Dream of St. Joseph. Mr. Les
Miller, author of Northern Lights,
will lead the reflection.

There is no cost, but registration is
required.

POSTER: <https://bit.ly/VDAW-PosterDec2025>

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/VDAW-RegisterDec2025>

CONTACT:

formation@archtoronto.org or
437-900-4287

Employment Opportunities

Looking for work, please check
the board next to the Welcome
Centre for Job Postings.

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is at
hand!" [Matthew 3:1-2](#)

John the Baptist is truly the
greatest of the prophets. He had the
unique role of being the immediate
precursor to the Savior of the
World. Many pious traditions state

that John was sanctified within the womb of his mother at the moment of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when our Blessed Mother who was pregnant with Jesus visited Elizabeth who was pregnant with John. Upon Mary's greeting, John leaped in the womb for joy. Additionally, Jesus says that no one born of woman was greater than John. That's an incredible statement and is reason enough for us to listen to the words of John.

Regarding the preaching of John, note first that John did his preaching in the desert of Judea. He did not sit on a royal throne or enjoy the honors of the Jewish leaders. Instead, he was poor, simple, prayerful, regularly engaged in penance, remained in the desert and invited many people to come to him. And when they came, he preached bold words to all.

Among those who came to John in the desert were the Pharisees and Sadducees. They did not come because they were sincere but because of their jealousy and envy. But when they came, John said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." John then went on to preach that someone much mightier than he was coming after him and that he was not worthy to even untie His sandal straps. John explained that the one coming would become the source of salvation for many, but for others, they "...will burn with unquenchable fire."

Though much more could be said about John the Baptist, it's essential that we regularly consider his strong words of preaching and allow those words to shake us to the core. In what ways do you need to hear John's message of repentance? In what ways are you like the Pharisees and Sadducees? In what ways are you

self-centered, envious, jealous, prideful and the like? If you think you are much better than the Pharisees and Sadducees who were addressed with these harsh words by John, then you may actually be fooling yourself more than you realize. The humble soul will also see the sin in their soul and will always allow the powerful words spoken by John and by our Lord to lead them to deeper repentance.

Reflect, today, upon the unerring truth that you need to repent. You do. The only person who doesn't need to daily repent is the one who lives perpetually in a state of perfect communion with the Most Holy Trinity. But these holy souls are rare. Don't be offended by this truth but rejoice in it. Give thanks to God for the strong words of Saint John the Baptist, spoken to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and allow yourself to hear those words yourself, as if they were spoken just for you. Receive them with humility and rejoicing, and allow them to prepare you more fully to receive our Divine Lord more deeply into your soul this Advent season.

My powerful Lord, You sent Saint John the Baptist before You, so as to prepare many hearts to receive You and Your transforming truth. Please humble me, dear Lord, so that I will listen to the words spoken by John and will indeed continually repent of all of my sin with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

<https://www.mycatholiclife.org/>

What Advent Teaches Us: Lessons for the Soul

Drawing from Catholic tradition and Scripture, here are three insights to help you live Advent more intentionally this year.

1. Hope Is Not Passive — It Builds the Bridge Toward Christ

The first week of Advent calls us to hope—not wishful thinking, but confident expectation in God's promises.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Spe Salvi*, reminds us:

"It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it, and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love."

Hope isn't waiting idly for God to act. It's active cooperation—building the "bridge" of prayer, service, and virtue that prepares our hearts to receive Him.

Spiritual

Practice:

Light your Advent candle each evening and pray:

"Lord, make my waiting active and my hope steadfast."

2. Presence Is the Path to Peace

Advent teaches us to be *present*—to slow down enough to see Christ at work now, not only in the manger or at the end of time.

Jesus tells us:

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13:33)

Each Sunday of Advent, take five minutes of quiet after Mass. Ask yourself: "Where did I experience God's presence this week?"

3. Preparation Requires Conversion of Heart

Advent is more than decorating wreaths—it is a season of **conversion**, a call to prepare the way of the Lord in our own hearts.

St. John the Baptist's cry echoes through the centuries:



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Mark 1:3)

Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession during Advent. Begin Christmas with a clear heart.

True preparation means removing what blocks Christ's coming—resentment, distraction, pride, or self-reliance—and replacing it with humility, mercy, and love.

<https://catholicguidance.com/2025/>



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 <p>St. Leo's Knights of Columbus</p> <p><i>Get involved. Inquire now!</i></p> <p>StLeoKOC@gmail.com www.StLeoTheGreatKofc.ca</p>	<p>Vanessa Robson Therapy Brooklin's Individual, Couple and Family Therapists</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage & Relationships • Parenting Support • Family Conflict • Anxiety & Depression • Grief & Bereavement • Trauma • Life transitions <p>Christian Counselling Available</p> <p>info@vanessarobsontherapy.com WWW.VANESSAROBSONTHERAPY.COM</p>		
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